

Amendments to the Claims

A complete list of pending claims follows, with indicated amendments:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of scheduling a manufacturing line, comprising:
generating a work schedule and a material delivery schedule ~~using at least one in response to an outstanding customer order, each customer order of the at least one outstanding customer order including~~ that includes at least one item, wherein the step of generating the work schedule ~~including~~ includes the step of scheduling work to manufacture each item ~~of the at least one item on~~ by an operation ~~of at least one operation on the~~ a manufacturing line, wherein the step of generating the delivery schedule ~~including~~ includes the step of scheduling a delivery of material to manufacture each item ~~of the at least one item to the operation,~~ wherein the scheduling of the delivery includes scheduling the delivery of the material prior to the time the material is needed according to the work schedule;
providing the work schedule to the manufacturing line, substantially immediately after generating the work schedule, for initiating work to mass produce each ~~of the at least one~~ item according to the work schedule; and
providing the material delivery schedule for the delivery of the material to manufacture each item ~~of the at least one item~~ according to the material delivery schedule, wherein the material delivery schedule is based, at least in part, on in-transit inventory;
wherein one or more items are manufactured on the manufacturing line according to the work schedule.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein: the scheduling of the delivery of the material prior to the time the material is needed according to the work schedule includes scheduling the delivery of the material at most one repetition prior to the time the material is needed.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein: the material is delivered from an available inventory of material at a material source.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein: the available inventory includes at least one of a group consisting of the following:

an in-house inventory; and

an external inventory.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4, wherein: the external inventory includes at least one of a group consisting of the following:

a supplier inventory; and

a hub inventory.

6. (Cancelled).

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1,
wherein: the step of generating a work schedule comprises adding work to the work schedule; and

wherein the step of generating a material delivery schedule comprises adding a delivery of the identified material from an available inventory of material to an operation of at least one operation on a manufacturing line to the material delivery schedule.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7,
wherein: the step of adding the work to the work schedule comprises adding the work to the work schedule at a start time; and

wherein the step of adding the delivery to the material delivery schedule comprises adding the delivery to the material delivery schedule at a material delivery time prior to the start time.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7, further comprising:
determining an expected availability of the identified material from the available inventory; and ~~wherein~~

wherein the step of adding the work to the work schedule includes adding the work at a start time after the expected availability of the identified material.

10-11. (Cancelled).

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7 wherein: the step of adding the work to the work schedule comprises adding the work to the work schedule according to a priority of the customer order.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7 wherein: the step of adding the work to the work schedule comprises adding the work to the work schedule according to an order date of the customer order.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein: the item is a commodity.

15-70. (Cancelled).